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Professor Joshua Lederberg  
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Dear Professor Lederberg !

Thank you very much for your letter and the enclosed reprints, which I have studied with the greatest of interest and enjoyment. My observations about Klebs. pneumoniae took place in the years 1912 - 1921. I tried to bring my results in relation to the general biology of heredity and describing them to "use genetic language". But naturally I could not apply the modern technical methods of bacterial genetics, because there was no bacterial genetics at that time. <sup>Most</sup> ~~most~~ bacteriologists who worked at that time did not try to analyse their observations from the genetical standpoint and only described them (the variations) as they saw them. In any case, I shall follow your advise and bring my results in correlation with the Pneumococcus Transformation. But of course my experiments don't deal with the transduction of genes from one bacterium to another, but with the new formation of an experimentally destroyed gene. This problem has until now been taken up only by myself. It is of course connected with the new formation of heritable properties (Neomutation, Plate) in general. But when you have read my reprints, you will see that I am a very critical "Lamarckist".

Yours cordially

Erich Toennies